1999-2000

Provincial Library Service Annual Report

Prince Edward Island

CANADA

101-04751/

Public Services

During 1999/00, circulation was 30 per cent higher than 1994/95. Rural branch circulation grew by 14 per cent from the previous year, but in some branches, circulation increased more dramatically. At the Cornwall branch, circulation increased by 54 per cent and in Kensington by 26 per cent. The Rotary Regional Library in Summerside had more than 45,000 visits to the library. Overall, the number of books sent between branches in response to patron requests rose by 33 per cent to 80,341.

In January 2000, 11 Island libraries received new computer hardware, from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and software from Microsoft. Four local area networks (LANs) and a mobile laptop training lab, were also included in the donation. In order to assist the public with these computers, staff received training in Seattle, Washington.

Public Internet access continues to be a popular service at Island libraries. People accessed this service 37,580 times.

Our public libraries offered 1,383 programs throughout the year with a total attendance of 17,501. The Summer Literacy Program had 218 participants who attended 10 weekly tutoring sessions in 20 locations. Other programs, including the Summer Reading Program, were offered in French at three locations.

Unravel the Mystery was the theme for Library Week celebrations in September 1999. As the theme suggested, libraries are a great place for people to find answers to just about anything that puzzles them. Programs throughout the week emphasized public awareness and free training on the Internet, as well as guest speakers on a variety of topics.

In Charlottetown, the Confederation Centre Public Library continued to coordinate the Talking Book Service to the visually and physically impaired. This special collection of materials has 130 registered users. The Video Library provides video lending services to all schools on the Island and to the public who may borrow videos at no charge. The National Film Board deposited 144 French and English videos in this library as part of its depository program. The Video Library also purchased 592 videos and placed another 36 from various government sources. The Government Services Library which provides service to all government employees sent 1,076 issues of 93 journals to provincial government employees as part of its current awareness service.

Community Partnerships

Staff, the Friends group and the community played a key role in the facelift of the Rotary Regional Library in Summerside. Donations of time and energy, 1,000 boxes, the loan of a 40-foot trailer and moving equipment made this project successful. Also in Summerside, *La Belle Alliance* sponsored a summer student to provide French programming and Industry Canada, through the Community Access Program, provided a student to provide Internet education.

In June 1999, the Tignish Public Library moved into a new facility that is shared with the Tignish Museum and Access PEI. In Morell, public library services and Access PEI services were combined. The arrangement in Morell allows for extended library hours and access to many provincial government services such as driver licences and vehicle registration in the Eastern Kings region.

Many of the programs offered in the province's public libraries are the result of the hard work and dedication of sponsoring partners, schools, staff and local volunteers. In recognition of the valuable assistance from many library volunteers, the Minister of Education presented certificates to 12 people who made an outstanding contribution to their community libraries during special Library Week events.

French Services

Island-wide French public library services continue to grow and develop. The circulation of French Language materials across the library system increased by six per cent to 46,712 items. Fifty children participated in the Summer Reading Program, *Read Through Time*. *La Belle Alliance*, of Summerside, sponsored a French student who was shared with the Summerside library. At the library at Abram-Village, the group *Enfants en premier* supplied the snacks and prizes for storytime. The library also hosted the author Marguerite Maillet. *La Lecture un Choix Santé* was also held. The school and community groups encouraged the Evangeline Region to read during the month of April. At the Carrefour de l'Isle-Saint-Jean, the parents committee at *École François-Buote* also provided support for the storytime program.

A total of 1,069 items were added to the French language collection. This includes 54 videos, 51 compact discs and 577 French Children's books, junior fiction and junior non-fiction.

The French Services Librarian made a presentation regarding French material selection tools to teacher-librarians who order French materials. She also participated on a committee that prepared a professional development day for bilingual employees of the provincial government.

Minister's Message

Libraries on Prince Edward Island provide an essential service to our residents and visitors. Our libraries provide learning opportunities for everyone – from the student working on a research project to the grandparent utilizing our Internet services to correspond with a grandchild in another country. Libraries are continuing to thrive in this information age.

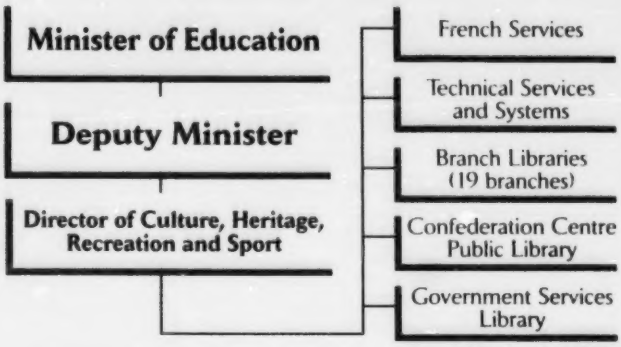
The Provincial Library Service does an excellent job of meeting the needs of its clients. I wish to thank staff for their hard work and dedication. Coupled with community partnerships, our libraries will be the cornerstone for information gathering in our knowledge-based economy.

Gail Shea,
Minister

* During the 1999-2000 fiscal year, the Provincial Library Service became part of the division of Culture, Heritage, Recreation and Sport in the Department of Education. On May 1, 2000, the Division and the Provincial Library Service moved to the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.

Provincial Library Service

Organizational Chart*



*as of March 31, 2000

Branches

Libraries are located across Prince Edward Island in:

Abram-Village	Hunter River	O'Leary
Alberton	Kensington	Souris
Borden-Carleton	Kinkora	St. Peters
Breadalbabane	Montague	Summerside
Charlottetown*	Morell	Tignish
Cornwall	Mount Stewart	Tyne Valley
Crapaud	Murray Harbour	
Georgetown	Murray River	

*Confederation Centre, Government Services and Carrefour de l'Isle-Saint-Jean

Provincial Library Service Circulation 1999-2000

	1999-2000	1998-99	1997-98	1996-97	1995-96
Branch Libraries	268,407	236,470	208,373	200,689	286,191
Rotary Library (Summerside)[1]	118,062	109,485	97,693	96,921	
Confederation Centre [2]	339,235	314,723	297,210	275,587	282,259
French Services	46,712	43,902	28,637	25,713	26,713
Total	772,416	720,663	650,087	599,522	595,163

[1] Rotary Regional Library (Summerside) is included in branch library figures prior to 1996
[2] Confederation Centre includes Government Services Library

Our Collection

During 1999/00, 16,963 new items were added to our collection. The public generously donated 6,311 of these new titles. In comparison to the previous year, the number of new volumes added to the collection decreased significantly as there were special projects last year. In order to keep the collection useful, 20,848 worn, damaged and outdated items were withdrawn from the collection. The total number of items in the collection at the end of the year was 280,211, not including an estimated 300,000 government documents.

The average purchase price of a book increased by $1.68 to $19.65, an increase of 8.5 per cent. If the number of books circulated is multiplied by the average cost of a book, the library provided access to $15,177,974 worth of materials this year.

The online public access catalog, *AbbyCat* allows patrons to place their own requests and to see if materials are available at other libraries. As a result, public users are able to get better and faster access to materials than from the former manual processes. However, there are many titles and types of materials that have long waiting lists, even with the improved access to materials. Large print books are in constant demand. Request lists for popular materials are long and the annual exchange of block collections of materials do not satisfy the demand for new materials in the branches.

In order to meet the high demand for adult popular fiction materials, the Provincial Library Service began to lease popular adult fiction books as a pilot project. Results to date are positive. Leasing has allowed staff to provide the public with access to a larger number of materials at less cost than if the library were to purchase these titles.

In order to improve access to the collection, staff edited computer files in order to provide more accurate searching of *AbbyCat*. A total of 2,177 records for government document volumes were added. A physical inventory of the library collections also continues.

Staff

A number of staff participated in the Atlantic Provinces Library Association conference in Saint John, New Brunswick. Several in-service training days were offered to library staff. Rural branch library staff participated in six training days and continuing education opportunities in areas of reference sources, community resources, updating computer and Internet skills in order to prepare staff for the increasing need to assist the public in their queries with the use of new Internet technology.

Services to Schools

Two public performance licenses were purchased to allow the educational classroom use of videos covered by the agreement. Provincial Library Service staff worked on a committee to draft a Department of Education Minister's Directive and Standards for School Libraries. Staff also assisted teacher-librarians with their collection development responsibilities.

The Provincial Library Service ordered, cataloged and processed 11,985 items as part of the regular acquisitions and special capital budget grants for school libraries. An additional 10,465 items were sent to Technical Services for cataloging and processing.

Provincial Library Service Programming

	Programs	Attendance	
		Children	Adults
Branch Libraries	584	5,231	575
Rotary Library	136	1,879	84
Charlottetown	592	8,441	995
French Services	71	276	20
Total	**1,383**	**15,827**	**1,674**

Provincial Library Service Budget 1999/00

Administration	$59,400
Equipment	3,600
Material, Supplies and Services	288,200
Professional and Contract Services	12,000
Salaries	1,506,700
Travel and Training	27,100
Total	**1,897,000**

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